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ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS EPISODE NO. 255 OK

CHICAGO OUTLET

(11:30-12:30 AM WELQ BLUE (APRIL 15, 1953) (FRIDAY DAY))

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: QUARTET, RANGER'S SONG

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers dedicate today's program to the great naturalist and philosopher, and one of America's outstanding conservationists John Muir. Next week, on April 21st, comes the 100th anniversary of John Muir's birth. America owes much to this great man, whose zealous championing of the cause of conservation was largely instrumental in bringing about the establishment of our great National Parks and National Forests, and the creation of the United States Forest Service, and the movement for preservation and wise use of our natural resources. -- And now I'm turning things over to our friend, Forest Ranger Jim Robbins. Good-bye ever Jim.

JIM;

(FADING IN) All right, Everett, thanks -- Folks, we need
of the Pine Glen National Forest and I believe you remember
special program today about a great man, who fought a great
battle for the conservation of our forest resources. As
Everett Mitchell just said, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, and
indeed all Americans, owe him a great big debt of gratitude
and we are happy to have this opportunity to pay tribute to
John Muir.

Last week, you remember, we told you that John Muir was born
in Scotland 100 years ago; that he came to this country as a
boy of 11 and grew up in the hard life of a pioneer farm in
Wisconsin, that he went to the University of Wisconsin and
later made a thousand-mile walk to the Gulf, that from
earliest boyhood he was interested in the wonders of nature
and in their protection and preservation. You remember I told you
how John Muir was befriended by Professor Jarr and his wife
who helped him with his education. Later the Jarrs came to
California, and it was through them that John met Miss
Strantzel. Louie was a chamber woman and had a lot of common
sense. She was a botanist and a naturalist. She resided at
her home on a ranch in the foothills near San Francisco Bay.
One night at the ranch house, Louie was sitting the piano
as Muir sat listening --

(FADE IN) PIANO PLAYING "BRING TO ME ONLY WITH FAINT EYES"

MUIR: Yes, they do.

LOUIE: (PAUSE) John--What's wrong tonight?

MUIR: Nothing, Louie -- Nothing.

LOUIE: Is it the destruction of the forests again?

MUIR: Oh -- I can't seem to --

LOUIE: I know how you feel, John. People should know about the way the forests are being wasted and --

MUIR: Everyone should know it. But how will they ever learn if no one is interested enough to come and see for himself?

LOUIE: You must tell them, John. You must tell the people the forests are being ruined. You must show them what the country is losing, and what beauty they, themselves can find in their forests.

MUIR: Louie, I can't find words to say those things.

LOUIE: You have, John.

MUIR: Not the kind of words that should tell of such beauty. Look at this very garden. How hardly words can picture the utter loveliness moonlight casts upon it. How can anyone ever find words to make people feel the magnificence of the forests?

LOUIE: But someone who knows the forests must try to make them see. You must do it, John. No one knows and loves the forests better than you do.

MUIR: I am no writer, Louie. Who is it will read my poor words?

LOUIE

But you can write, John. Those letters you wrote to the
Carve were beautiful. And hasn't the Overland Monthly already
published some of your articles, and the New York Tribune
and Harper's? -- And people are reading them. Think of all
the people who have written to you about them, and come to
see you -- even great men like Agassiz and Ralph Waldo
Emerson --

AMIA

Yes, a few seem interested, but -- if I only could make
everyone see that we must stop this great waste, that this
sleep on whilst forest problems, lawless and blathering
about their rights, waste the good timber and destroy the
mountain beauty. If I could teach men not to destroy, but
to cherish the good things of nature --

LOUIE

But you say, John. You must go on -- Some day, they will
listen to what you say, John -- Even the slightest of men
-- if I listen to what you say --

(MUSIC OF THE MOUNTAINS)

MUIR: Would it be good news or bad?

LOUIE: He says he has just received a letter from Washington, John. The President, Theodore Roosevelt, says he wants to talk to you about the forests.

MUIR: Wants to talk to me? Teddy Roosevelt?

LOUIE: Yes. Look at this. It says: "Then we got to talking about the national forest situation, and Teddy said he would like to have a talk with your friend John Muir. In fact, he said he was going to write Mr. Muir to ask if a trip into the High Sierras could be arranged. He appears to be very serious about the matter, saying that he would like to talk along with Mr. Muir, and find out the truth about our forests." (EAGERLY) What do you think of that, John?

MUIR: (QUIETLY) It - it sounds very good.

LOUIE: Think of it, the President of the United States wants to come all the way across the continent to ask you about the forests.

MUIR: (CHUCKLING) Well -- it's very good of him.

LOUIE: I'm so proud, John -- oh, but John --

MUIR: Yes.

LOUIE: What about your trip? -- You were planning to start on your world tour with Dr. Hargent in a few days.

MUIR: Yes, everything is arranged. We have to start soon.

LOUIE: (CREATIVELY) You don't want to give up your trip?

MUIR: I do not. That's true.

LOUIE: But Teddy Roosevelt has the power to protect the forest lands as you have suggested. If you can convince him, if you can show him how necessary it is --

MUIR: He could do something for our forests if --

LOUIE: If what, John?

MUIR: If he would. But many powerful interests would oppose him, thinking only of something to put into their own pockets.

LOUIE: But if ever a President has shown strength of character, Teddy is the one.

MUIR: It's true he has had a successful career.

LOUIE: John, if you could talk to the President alone -- without anyone to interfere or bother you, couldn't you get him to see what is really needed for the protection of the forests? There's not another man alive who could do it better than you, John. That's why Teddy's coming to you. He wouldn't think of it if he didn't consider it a serious matter.

MUIR: Well, if the President really wants to see me, I shall set aside my trip. Perhaps some good might come of it in finally talking around a forest problem. (CHUCKLES) It may be I can do a little forest good.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

MUIR

It was a carpet of green velvet that stretched up to the trees. And when the flowers that used to be there were blooming in the spring, it was a glorious, breath-taking sea of brilliant colors. The first time I saw it I stood for two hours without moving -- just looking up and down its broad expanse of incredible beauty--and now it's a big ugly patch covered with dirty, naked splotches of hoof-beaten soil -- You know, Teddy, I believe God Himself would shudder with disgust and sorrow if he were to see what men have done to the most precious gifts he has given them.

TEDDY

He would, John. He would. And perhaps that's the reason he gives clear vision and courage to such men as yourself.

MUIR

People used to call me crazy because I preferred to live with the sky for my roof and the earth for a bed. (CHUCKLES) Maybe they were right in a way. But if I can help those who have the power to protect our forests and the desperate need for it, perhaps the Lord will forgive me my foolishness.

TEDDY

(LAUGHING) I think you stand a fair chance of reaching into Heaven, John, if they're lenient with you.

MUIR

Well, one has to think of these things at my age. I only hope I don't go before my work is done. If I had one wish--one boon to be granted me, I think I should ask to live long enough to see the forests protected from the lumbermen.

TEDDY

Well, John -- I think I can help you do that work.

TEDDY: Every word you say is true, John -- there is not a man in the office of the Presidency of these United States, I shall use it -- now. I shall demand that the Forestry be preserved. I shall see that honorable and capable Foresters are placed in charge of them. And that they are responsible not for the temporary benefit of a few but for the permanent good of the whole people.

MUSIC, FINALE

ANNOUNCER: President Theodore Roosevelt set aside a total of one million acres of land to be administered as National Forests. It was more than three times the amount of all the land previously set aside. And in 1908, when the United States Forest Service was reestablished, and placed in charge of them. -- When the end came the John Muir in 1914, as a last memorial, say that we have made good about 1000 000 000 -- And to be better to a child this John Muir's legacy, which is the great wilderness, John Muir.

MUSIC, RE-ENTRY

ANNOUNCER: This program comes to you through the efforts of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service. And finally, as in the past, we continue our efforts to see that the best of conservation is being well represented by the United States Forest Service.

